

So at the height of the cold war, the two major superpowers of the world decided to agree not to conduct any more nuclear tests in the atmosphere because of the dangers of nuclear contamination of the food cycle to Americans, Russians—and incidentally, to other human beings who live in various regions of the world.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if my colleagues are aware of the fact that despite our earnest efforts to advise President de Gaulle of France of the dangers of conducting nuclear explosions in the atmosphere—the French went right ahead and exploded 12 nuclear bombs in the atmosphere in the South Pacific.

And is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the thousands of Polynesian Tahitians who were exposed to nuclear contamination in the sixties and throughout the seventies—many are coming forward with stories of retarded and deformed children coming from the same parents, who historically have never experienced such traumatic problems in their lives.

It is any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the French Government either simply threw such records away or just doesn't care about the health of its own citizens—some 200,000 French citizens who live 14,000 miles from Paris and the first to be exposed to nuclear contamination when this atoll breaks open, that is, the Moruroa Atoll in French Polynesia.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not much of an artist, but I want to share with my colleagues the potential horrors of Moruroa Atoll. When this atoll leaks radioactive materials, I fear very much that the health and safety of the peoples of the Pacific will be seriously at risk.

Mr. Speaker, again I say to the French Government—shame on you for bringing the horrors of nuclear contamination to the peoples of the Pacific.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BRYANT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BRYANT of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION DISSERVICE TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am sure if we could get the 1996 election behind us, the misinformation that is being spread constantly would cease. What a disservice to this institution and to the other body, and to the administration and to the American people to continue this kind of misinformation day after day after day.

Recently some of my colleagues have taken to the House floor to portray their view of the Republican efforts to balance the budget in 7 years. Watching them, I found myself back in school reading Homer and Plato, Socrates, and all of those wonderful Greek myths that we all enjoyed as children. It is an appropriate reference to these works of fiction, as my colleagues would have the American people and certainly our friends in the press, swoon over the myths they portray. I would like to look at a couple of those myths tonight that I am very closely connected to.

Myth No. 1, Republicans are cutting student loans. Even the President today in his message used that misinformation. Now, the fact is that student loans will increase by nearly 50 percent, nearly 50 percent over the next 7 years from \$25 billion to \$36 billion in the year 2002. This chart shows that. Each year during that time an increase, an increase, an increase, the whole way up the line throughout the entire period. Yet, you would be led to believe that the opposite would happen.

More loans will be made available next year than ever before, rising from 6.6 million loans in 1995 to 7.1 million in 1996.

For all students, the Federal interest subsidies on student loans remains intact, and there are 75 percent of the American people that have some problems with that, but nevertheless, that is the way it will remain, including during the 6-month grace period following graduation. For all parents, the interest rate on student loans remains the same.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1995 does not include higher education cuts. There are no changes affecting student eligibility for Federal student loans; there are no changes affecting the amount of funds available for student loans; there are no changes affecting the interest rates, interest subsidies, or fees charged to the students or the parents. There are no special fees imposed on any schools.

The next myth, students will pay more for their loans under the Republican plan to balance the budget. The fact is that the Republican balanced budget will result in significantly lowered loan payments, because Alan Greenspan and others tell us that if we get to that point, interest rates will drop at least 2 percent. Now, that is at least an \$8 savings for every student out there with an average loan when they consider repayment.

The next myth: Republicans are making extreme cuts in student loans while the President wants to save these programs. The fact is that the Presi-

dent's own budget director, Alice Rivlin, issued a memo recommending the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy for student loans as a method to balance the budget. We did not follow her advice. We found ways to do this without affecting students.

By capping the President's direct loan program at 10 percent, the Congressional Budget Office has found that we will save \$1 billion over 7 years, again without harming students.

Myth: Republicans will force hard choices on parents and families. Listen to what one of my colleagues said on the floor of this House.

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They will, "in some cases have to make the very difficult choice of which child will be favored with a college education and which will be told, well, you have to fend for yourself in the job market without that education."

Mr. Speaker, I find these scare tactics to be very irresponsible. Simply put, these are scare tactics based on incorrect information. It might be better that those parents would tell their children that there are hundreds of thousands of college graduates out there today either with no job or in a job way beyond their education, and at the same time there are hundreds of thousands of technical jobs out there begging for somebody to be trained in order to take those jobs, not a 4-year college education.

I want to repeat the facts. Republicans are increasing student loan volumes and balancing the budget. There are no cuts. Zero cuts. No eligible student will be turned away from the student loan program. Anyone who claims otherwise is simply misrepresenting the facts. No student or parent will pay more for their loan under this Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

Again, I hope we can get correct information out to the public, and not play politics and use scare tactics while doing that.

#### IN HONOR OF GEN. MAX THURMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ENSIGN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and one of this country's great patriots, Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman. He died December 1 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington after a long battle with leukemia.

He was called a visionary and an innovator for the work he did to help save the All-Volunteer Army after the Vietnam war. In the early 1980's, we were not getting qualified young people into our Armed Forces. More than 50 percent of recruits at that time were reading on the eighth grade level. General Thurman saw the problem and went to work to solve it. He created the recruiting slogan still used by the U.S. Army: "Be all you can be," as well as a program that stressed how recruits could learn a skill and realize their fullest potential.